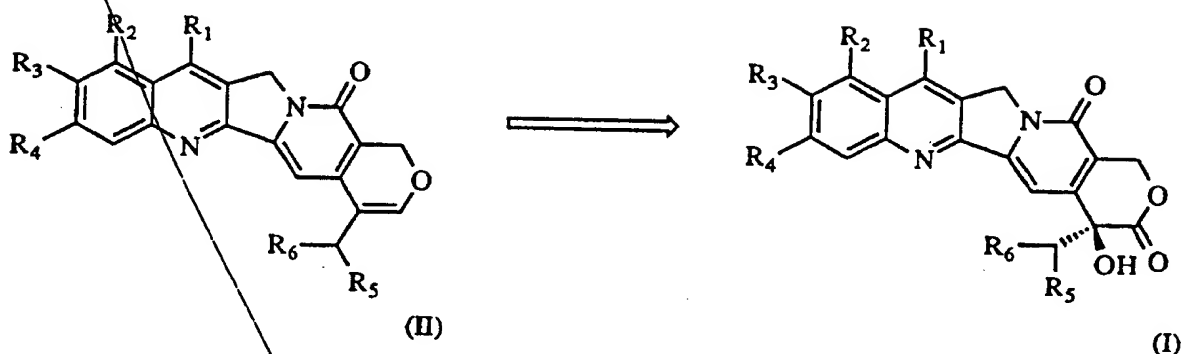


We claim:

1. A method of preparing a compound of Formula (I)



which comprises dihydroxylating a compound of Formula (II), wherein:  
 $R_1$  and  $R_2$ , which may be the same or different, are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>) cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, hydroxy lower alkyl, or alkoxy alkyl, or (-CH<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>7</sub>R<sub>8</sub>), wherein:

- i)  $R_7$  and  $R_8$ , which may be the same or different, are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>) cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>) cycloalkyl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, hydroxy lower alkyl, or lower alkoxy lower alkyl; or
- ii)  $R_7$  represents hydrogen, lower alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>) cycloalkyl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, hydroxy lower alkyl, or lower alkoxy lower alkyl, and  $R_8$  represents -COR<sub>9</sub>,

wherein:

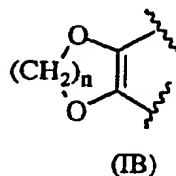
$R_9$  represents hydrogen, lower alkyl, perhalo-lower alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>) cycloalkyl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, hydroxy lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkoxy lower alkyl; or



lower alkyl, hydroxy lower alkyl,  
lower alkoxy lower alkyl groups; or

$R_3$  and  $R_4$  are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl,  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl,  $(C_{3-7})$ cycloalkyl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, hydroxy lower alkyl, or alkoxy alkyl; or

$R_3$  and  $R_4$  taken together form a saturated 5 to 6 atom heterocyclic group of formula (IB)



wherein,

$n$  represents the integer 1 or 2; or

$R_3$  represents  $-OCONR_{12}R_{13}$ .

wherein,

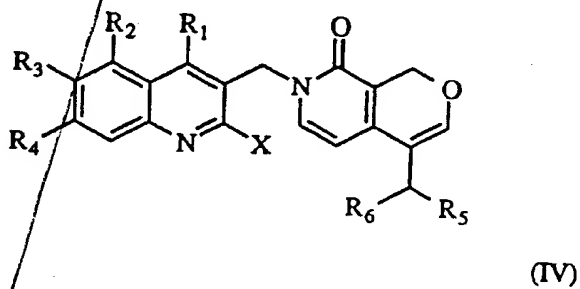
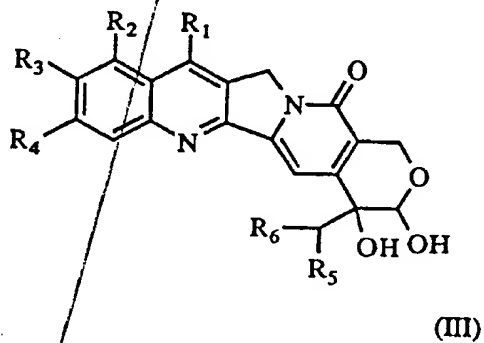
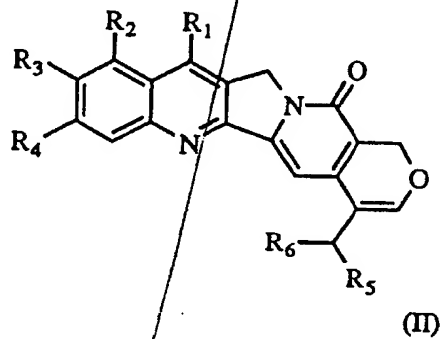
$R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$ , which may be the same or different, are independently selected from hydrogen, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms or a substituted or unsubstituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic group, with the proviso that when both  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$  are substituted or unsubstituted alkyl groups, they may be combined together with the nitrogen atom, to which they are bonded, to form a heterocyclic ring which may be interrupted with  $-O-$ ,  $-S-$  and/or  $>N-R_{14}$  in which  $R_{14}$  is hydrogen, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms or a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, and

$R_5$  represents hydrogen or alkyl, and

$R_6$  represents hydrogen or alkyl, and

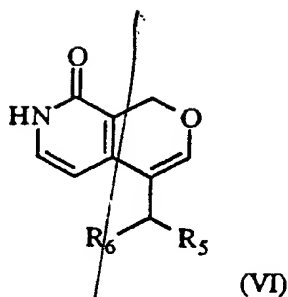
pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. A compound of Formulas (II), (III), (IV), or (VI):



Sub B

SECRET



wherein:

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub>, which may be the same or different, are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>) cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, hydroxy lower alkyl, or alkoxy alkyl, or (-CH<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>7</sub>R<sub>8</sub>), wherein:

- i) R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>8</sub>, which may be the same or different, are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>) cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>) cycloalkyl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, hydroxy lower alkyl, or lower alkoxy lower alkyl; or
- ii) R<sub>7</sub> represents hydrogen, lower alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>) cycloalkyl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, hydroxy lower alkyl, or lower alkoxy lower alkyl, and R<sub>8</sub> represents -COR<sub>9</sub>,

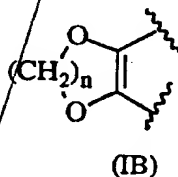
wherein:

- R<sub>9</sub> represents hydrogen, lower alkyl, perhalo-lower alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>) cycloalkyl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, hydroxy lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkoxy lower alkyl; or
- iii) R<sub>7</sub> represents hydrogen or lower alkyl; and R<sub>8</sub> represents diphenyl-methyl or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>t</sub>Ar



$R_3$  and  $R_4$  are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, hydroxy lower alkyl, or alkoxy alkyl; or

$R_3$  and  $R_4$  taken together form a saturated 5 to 6 atom heterocyclic group of formula (IB)



wherein,

$n$  represents the integer 1 or 2; or

$R_3$  represents  $-OCONR_{12}R_{13}$ ,

wherein,

$R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$  which may be the same or different, are independently selected from hydrogen, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms or a substituted or unsubstituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic group, with the proviso that when both  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$  are substituted or unsubstituted alkyl groups, they may be combined together with the nitrogen atom, to which they are bonded, to form a heterocyclic ring which may be interrupted with  $-O-$ ,  $-S-$  and/or  $>N-R_{14}$  in which  $R_{14}$  is hydrogen, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms or a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group, and

$R_5$  represents hydrogen or alkyl, and

$R_6$  represents hydrogen or alkyl, and

pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

